

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Atalla, U.S. Patent No. 5,960,086.

Claim 1, as amended, provides that central management and control equipment delivers a public key for a piece of switching equipment accommodating a data terminal of a called party, and a common key to encrypt a message, each time a call requesting secure communication is originated from the piece of switching equipment accommodating the data terminal of the calling party. The message encrypted by the common key is transmitted via the circuit-switched public network from the data terminal of the calling party to the data terminal of the called party.

The Examiner has referred to Fig. 15 and contended that Server/relay 151 is equivalent to Applicant's central management and control equipment. However, Server/relay 151 delivers only key "Ko" to ORIGINATION and a message encrypted by the key "Ko" is transmitted to DESTINATION via the Server/relay 151.

Atalla fails to disclose the central management and control equipment delivering a public key and a common key, and a plurality of pieces of switching equipment constituting a circuit switched public network, through which an encrypted message is transmitted.

As for amended claim 6, a piece of switching equipment detecting a calling data terminal informs the central management and control equipment of a called number of a called data terminal and a user identification number assigned to the piece of switching equipment detecting the calling data terminal. The Examiner seems to contend that the called number and user identification number are equivalent to the contents of table 180 of Fig. 18 of Atalla. In Fig. 18, only TEL central office 182 has a switching function, and as a matter of course, table 180 recording public telephone IDs is retained in the TEL central office 182.

However, Atalla fails to indicate switching equipment which informs the central management and control equipment of a called number and a user identification number. This means the steps defined in claim 6 do not correspond to any portion of Atalla. For example, in Fig. 18, data is transferred from sender 183 to receiver 184 through TEL central office 182, but this does not correspond to the encrypted common key for the piece of switching equipment accommodating the called party terminal, which is transferred via the circuit switched public network, as claimed in claim 6.

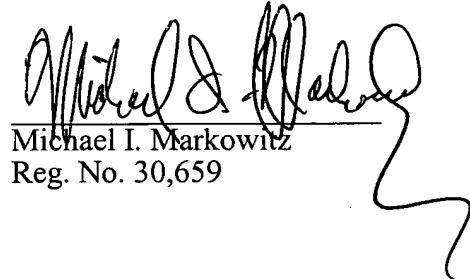
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 6 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on
Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Substitute Specification

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